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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC PO BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135				
			EXAMINER	
			SALAD, ABDULLAH ELMI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,411

Applicant(s)

AMSTRONG ET AL.

Examiner

Salad E Abdullahi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/12/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-68 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-17, 21, 23-26, 28-43, 47, 49-56, 59-65 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Emens et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,745,178 [hereinafter Emens].

As per claim 1, Emens discloses a system for structuring content within a message and transmitting the structured message over a computer network in a real time chat environment, comprising:

- a system administration computing system having a system management program (collaborative system 210) with a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network (see fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 21-61); and
- a second computing system (client 202) having a network interface program (GUI) with a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer

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network, wherein the network interface program accepts message content, establishes a real time chat interface with the system management program and interacts with the system management program to structure the content within the message and transmit the structured message over the computer network (see fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 21-61 and col. 5, lines 11-24).

As per claim 2, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 1, wherein the second computing system is an end user computing system and the network interface program is an end user interface program (see col. 5, lines 1-24).

As per claim 3, Emens disclose the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 2, wherein the end user interface program, based on configuration instructions, generates a structured message content input panel having message content fields for the end user to enter message content into (see fig. 4A and col. 5, lines 11-24).

As per claim 4, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 3, wherein the message content fields are generated dynamically based on the configuration instructions and data specific to the end user (see fig. 6c and col. 7, lines 42-63).

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As per claim 5, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 4, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an end user identification code (see 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 6, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 4, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an end user location identifier (i.e. IP address)(see col. 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 7, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 4, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an identifier for the end user computing system (see col. 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 8, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 3, wherein: after message content to be structured is entered into the structured input panel message content fields, the end user interface program structures the message content for transmission over the computer network (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 9, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 8, wherein data specific to the end user creating the message is

associated with the structured message content for message creation identification purposes (see col. 5, lines 25-36 and col. 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 10, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 2, wherein the end user interface program generates a user interface having at least one real time chat channel (see col. 10, lines 21-26).

As per claim 11, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a forum channel (see col. 2, lines 1214 and col. 10, lines 21-26).

As per claim 12, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a private channel (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 13, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a filtered channel (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 14, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 13, wherein the filtered channel is an aggregation of selected real time chat channels (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 15, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 14, wherein the aggregated filter channel is used to post a message to multiple channels (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 16, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein the end user interface program allows a real time chat channel to be docked to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 17, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein the end user interface program allows a real time chat channel to be undocked from the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 21, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 10, wherein the real time chat channel includes at least one contextual chat message (see fig. 6c, element 612).

As per claim 23, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 2, wherein the end user interface program, upon receipt of a structured message, generates a structured message output panel to display the structured message content (see fig. 4e and col. 36-47).

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As per claim 24, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 1, further comprising a third computing system having a network interface program with a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network (see fig. 2, element 204).

As per claim 25, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 24, wherein the second computing system transmits structured messages directly to the third computing system (see col. 5, lines 1-24).

As per claim 26 Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 1, wherein the second computing system is an application computing system having an application program and the network interface program is a network application management program (see fig. 2, element 208 and col. 4, lines 21-62).

As per claim 28, Emens discloses a system for structuring content within a message and transmitting the structured message over a computer network in a real time chat environment, comprising:

first means having a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network (collaborative application 210) (see fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 24-61) and

second means (first client application 202) having real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network (206), wherein the second means for communicating accepts message content, establishes a real time chat interface with the

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first means for communicating and interacts with the first means for communicating to structure the content within the message and transmit the structured message over the computer network (see col. 4, lines 21-61).

As per claim 29, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 28, wherein the second means, based on configuration instructions, generates a structured message content input panel having message content fields for the end user to enter message content into (see col. 5, lines 11-24).

As per claim 30, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 29, wherein the message content fields are generated dynamically based on the configuration instructions and data specific to the end user (see fig. 6c and col. 7, lines 42-63).

As per claim 31, Emens disclose the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 30, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an end user identification code (see 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 32, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 30, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an end user location identifier (see 7, lines 7-20).

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As per claim 33, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 30, wherein the specific end user data used to dynamically generate the message content fields is an identifier for the end user computing system (see col. 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 34, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 29, wherein: after message content to be structured is entered into the structured input panel message content fields, the second means structures the message content for transmission over the computer network (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 35, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 34, wherein data specific to the end user creating the message is associated with the structured message content for message creation identification purposes (see col. 5, lines 25-36 and col. 7, lines 7-20).

As per claim 36, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 28, wherein the second means generates a user interface having at least one real time chat channel (see col. 10, lines 21-26).

As per claim 37, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a forum channel (see

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col. 2, lines 5-17).

As per claim 38, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a private channel (see col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 39, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein at least one real time chat channel is a filtered channel (col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 40, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 39, wherein the filtered channel is an aggregation of selected real time chat channels (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 41, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 40, wherein the aggregated filter channel is used to post a message to multiple channels (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 42, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein the second means allows a real time chat channel to be docked to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

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As per claim 43, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein the second means allows a real time chat channel to be undocked from the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 47, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 36, wherein the real time chat channel includes at least one contextual chat message (see fig. 6c, element 612).

As per claim 49, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 28, wherein the second means, upon receipt of a structured message, generates a structured message output panel to display the structured message content (see fig. 4e and col. 6, lines 36-47).

As per claim 50, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 28, further comprising a third means having a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network (see fig. 2, element 204).

As per claim 51, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission system of claim 50, wherein the second means transmits structured messages directly to the third means (see col. 5, lines 1-24).

As per claim 52, Emens discloses a method for structuring message content and

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transmitting the structured message content over a computer network in a real time chat environment, comprising:

providing a system administration computing system having a system management program with a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network;

providing message content to the computer network (see fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 21-61);

structuring the content within the message;

establishing a real time chat interface with the system administration computing system (see col. 4, lines 21-61);and

transmitting the structured message to the system management program (see col. 4, lines 21-61 and col. 5, lines 11-24).

As per claim 53, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission method of claim 52, further comprising generating a structured message content input panel having message content fields for acceptance of message content (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

AS per claim 54, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission method of claim 52, further comprising generating a user interface having at least one real time chat channel which includes at least one contextual chat message (see fig. 6c, element 612).

As per claim 55, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission

method of claim 54, further comprising docking the real time chat channel to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 56, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission method of claim 54, further comprising undocking the real time chat channel to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 59, Emens discloses the message content structuring and transmission method of claim 52, further comprising generating a structured message output panel to display received structured message content (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 60, Emens discloses a method for structuring message content and transmitting the structured message content over a computer network in a real time chat environment, comprising:

providing a system administration computing system having a system management program with a real time chat interface for communicating over the computer network;
providing message content to the computer network (see fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 21-61);and

establishing a real time chat interface with the system administration computing system
transmitting the message content to the system management program for structuring and further transmission (see col. 4, lines 21-61);

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As per claim 61, Emens discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for structuring message content for transmission over a computer network in a real time chat environment, the method executed by the instructions comprising:

establishing a real time chat interface with the computer network (col. 4, lines 21-61);and

receiving message content from within the computer network (col. 4, lines 21-61 and col. 5, lines 11-24).

structuring the message content (col. 4, lines 21-61 and col. 5, lines 11-24);and

transmitting the structured message content over the computer network via real time chat (see col. 4, lines 21-61 and col. 5, lines 11-24).

As per claim 62, Emens discloses the method executed by the computer-executable instructions of claim 61, further comprising generating a structured message content input panel having message content fields for acceptance of message content (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 63, Emens discloses the method executed by the computer-executable instructions of claim 61, further comprising generating a user interface having at least one real time chat channel which includes at least one contextual chat message (see fig. 6c, element 612).

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As per claim 64, Emens disclose the method executed by the computer-executable instructions of claim 63, further comprising docking the real time chat channel to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 65, Emens discloses the method executed by the computer-executable instructions of claim 63, further comprising undocking the real time chat channel to the user interface (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

As per claim 68, Emens discloses the method executed by the computer-executable instructions of claim 61, further comprising generating a structured message output panel to display received structured message content (see fig. 6c and col. 8, lines 42-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

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not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 18-20, 27, 44-46, 57 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emens as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Payne et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,735,614[hereinafter Payne].

As per claims 18-20, 44-46, 57 and 66 Emens discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above with respect to claim.

Emens is silent regarding:

wherein the end user interface program generates at least one user interface message alert for a real time chat channel.

Payne discloses a system for alerting or notifying users for received message, wherein end user interface program generates at least one user interface message alert for a real time chat channel (i.e., appropriate visual and/or audio alert) (see the abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Payne into Emens's system such that the user is then given the opportunity to respond to the message, thereby making it possible not miss important messages.

6. Claims 22, 48, 58, 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emens in view of Cave et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,404,746[hereinafter Cave].

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As per claim 22, 48, 58, 67, Emens discloses substantial features of the claimed invention as discussed above.

Emens is silent regarding wherein the system management program converts **synchronous** message content to asynchronous message content for storage.

Cave discloses a communications system including a management gateway system, which converts synchronous message content to asynchronous message content for storage (see col. 6, Lines 10-22 and col. 10, 25-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Cave into Emen's system because the advantage of converting synchronous message content to asynchronous message content for storage is that provides enhanced multimedia communication.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

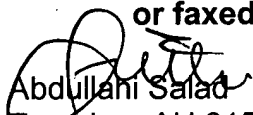
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Abdullahi Salad
Examiner AU 2157
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